

PURPOSE: To establish policy regarding the use of safety equipment when an officer is on duty.

POLICY: It is the policy of this Department that officers engaged in traffic control or collision investigations shall wear high visibility clothing when working in or near a moving traffic environment.

PROCEDURES:

I. PROCEDURES FOR TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL

Officers assigned to traffic control responsibilities shall ensure that the following guidelines are complied with:

- A. At the scene of traffic collisions, the responding officer shall follow guidelines in Policy 10-4: Motor Vehicle Collision Investigations. If traffic control devices are used (ex. portable signage, barricades, etc.), they shall be placed with respect to hill crests and curves as well as other obstructions so as to be sure that they will be seen.
- B. Uniform hand signals and gestures will be used for manual traffic direction and control.
- C. At fire scenes these guidelines will be followed:
 - 1. Jacksonville Fire Department will request the assistance of an officer at the scene of a fire;
 - 2. The officer will assist to block off access to the scene by either rerouting the traffic flow or directing the traffic past the scene in a safe manner;
 - 3. Officers should take care to prevent vehicles from driving over hoses or blocking hydrants. If possible, block access to these areas; and
 - 4. Pedestrians should not be allowed access to a fire scene unless permission is granted by fire personnel.
- D. During periods of adverse road and weather conditions, flashlights, traffic cones, and additional personnel will be utilized when needed.
- E. The circumstances warranting manual operation of traffic control devices would be for the following, but not limited to:
 - 1. Inoperable traffic control signs;
 - 2. Roadway maintenance;
 - 3. Major traffic congestion; and
 - 4. Escorts.
- F. Temporary traffic control devices are to be erected only upon the direction of the shift supervisor. Movable barriers, temporary signs, etc. may be used to protect the scene and to detour traffic if necessary.

II. HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING (7.19)

- A. The Jacksonville Police Department will issue each officer a high visibility reflective vest that meets current ANSI/ISEA standards and reflective raincoat.
- B. Personnel will wear their high visibility reflective vest/raincoat when it is necessary for them to be in or near the roadway, such as when directing traffic, i.e. parades, special events, DWI checkpoints, conducting motor vehicle collision investigations, or any other event that causes an officer to be in the roadway.
- C. Some emergency situations may require an individual to assume traffic direction

responsibilities without time to put on a reflective vest/raincoat. When this occurs, the individual will make every effort to obtain a reflective vest/raincoat as soon as the situation permits.

- D. Officers will wear their high visibility vest/raincoat anytime a shift commander deems it necessary.

III. POLICE ESCORTS

- A. Police escorts may be provided in situations where such services would result in the safe passage of vehicles with a minimum of interference to normal traffic. Upon notification of a situation that may result in an increase of vehicular traffic in a defined area, the shift supervisor or a command level officer may authorize an escort of involved vehicles. Instances requiring an escort may include:
 - 1. Funerals;
 - 2. Oversized vehicles;
 - 3. Hazardous or unusual cargo; or
 - 4. Motorcades for public officials or dignitaries
- B. When funeral escorts are requested, the patrol shift supervisor will staff the request from on-duty officers if personnel are available based on the level of calls for police services at the time. However, certain situations arise where the Department may provide this service with additional personnel (e.g., funeral and interment of government or City officials; retired and active duty Department employees, or immediate family of Department employee) and requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- C. Employees will not use a police vehicle to escort civilian vehicles to medical or other facilities by use of emergency equipment. If a medical emergency exists, the employee will request for an ambulance to be sent to the location.
- D. Officers will not escort an emergency vehicle (i.e. ambulance, police vehicle from outside jurisdiction) except in exceptional circumstances and with supervisor approval.

ALEAP: 7.19



Brett C. Hibbs
Chief of Police